

Minutes
Scranton/Lackawanna County Continuum of Care
Board of Directors Meeting
March 12, 2019

The Board of the Lackawanna/Scranton CoC met at Cedar Point on March 12, 2019. The following members were present: Joe Hollander, Andy Hurchick, Krista Somers, Patricia Sack, Lisa Durkin, Jessica Wallo, Carol Shoener, Steve Nocilla, Dorette Harris, Carly Chamberlin, Nancy Lawton-Kluck, John Byrd, and Sr. Susan Hadzima.

The closing of the Keystone Mission was the first item on the agenda. Concerns had been raised around the loss of temporary housing in extremely cold weather. Prior to closing, the Mission had transported clients to Weston Field to be housed overnight. Up to 15 people were able to be served.

Steve Nocilla spoke about St. Anthony and the challenges during the extreme weather when vouchers for motels are used for the overflow of people. No person needing shelter was turned away. Steve explained that in Sept. 2018 their policy changed to allow residents of Lackawanna County to remain for 30 days in the shelter if they were enrolled with a caseworker, presented with health issues or other needs. Non-Lackawanna County residents would be limited to six nights. St. Anthony's census was as high as 36 when they needed to use hotel vouchers to cover up to 10 people at the Red Carpet Inn. The vouchers were provided through donations from various organizations totaling \$4,160 and had been used for hotel stays from Jan. 4, 2019 to the present. The hope is to end hotel stays by April 1st.

The Housing Coalition had created a policy regarding Extreme Weather Protocol and a press release that need to be used more proactively moving forward. It was noted that the steps of the protocol need to be in sync with whatever the County Commissioners may have in place for a Code Blue. Additional suggestions of what steps could be taken included: a newspaper article on St. Anthony's including the steps they've taken and the support they have received; a meeting to be set-up with a County Community Relations person to discuss the issue of extreme weather and a joint meeting of the Housing Coalition and CoC on the protocol.

Crystal Arcarese has resigned from the Board due to a change in her position. She suggested that Tom DiMatteo could replace her as the VA representative. With a motion by John Byrd, seconded by Krista Somers, the suggestion was approved.

Jessica Wallo distributed the results of the CoC Competition debriefing from FY 2018 and reviewed briefly the NOFA Scores. The overall score for the CoC was 184.5 out of 200 with the highest CoC score being 190. Our score was higher than last year's. Jessica also reported that the search continues for a new CoC Director with good progress being made in narrowing down the possibilities.

Steve Nocilla announced that they are applying for a grant through the Moses Taylor Foundation to address the health concerns of clients at St. Anthony's. They hope to give clients more time to get needed services and be able to achieve greater self-reliance. The Pathfinder Program would

connect the individuals to Scranton Primary Health Clinic and provide them with a Community Health Navigator who would assist them in managing their appointments.

Lisa suggested the formation of a Health & Housing Subcommittee within the CoC. Members were asked to e-mail Lisa at ldurkin@uncnepa.org if interested.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2019 at 10 a.m. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sr. Susan Hadzima, IHM

Secretary